

November 2021 Commuter Van Bulletin



Dear Commuter Van Participant,

Please find important safety reminders below about winter driving as well as a note about being responsive to requests for updated group information. As always, thank you for your support of our program.

Included in this bulletin:

- [Winter Safety Message](#)
- [Group Record Update Reminder](#)

WINTER SAFETY MESSAGE – The seasons have changed; now is the time to plan and prepare for adverse weather in the months ahead. Please prepare by doing the following and always remember, drivers should not operate their Commuter Van in unsafe or unfamiliar conditions.

- Drivers should review emergency procedures and monitor regional weather advisories for road conditions:
 - Commuter Van emergency procedures found in the [Vehicles and driving section](#):
 - 'Emergency and collision procedures' (2nd bullet), and
 - 'Flood Preparedness' (8th bullet)
 - View real-time travel and weather information here: <https://wsdot.com/travel/real-time/>
- Update and notify all commute group members of your group's snow plans and plan for alternate routes for your group.
- Check your snow chains now for fit and readiness; contact your Commuter Van maintenance representative for questions and assistance with replacement snow chains.
- Carry sand or kitty litter for traction, a snow shovel, gloves, and a flashlight.

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In the event you are commuting during adverse weather, please remember to:

- Check traffic and weather report updates before travel.
- Before departing, clear snow and ice from all vehicle surfaces.
- Keep your cellphone handy and fully charged.
- Always maintain at least a 1/2 half tank of fuel.
- Drive with headlights on, and don't use cruise control.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly, slow down, and if possible, avoid driving altogether.
- Increase following distance to 8 -10 seconds and stay at least 15 car lengths (200 feet) back from maintenance vehicles and plows, and don't pass them on the right.
- If possible, do not stop when going uphill.
- Even when roads are dry, watch out for icy bridges.
- If stranded, do not try to push your vehicle out of snow; signal distress using provided warning triangles, a brightly colored cloth tied to the antenna, or a rolled-up window.
- In case of stuck or abandoned vehicles, serious accidents involving injury, fatality, or van mechanical failure, drivers are instructed to follow all collision reporting procedures located on the Commuter Van Accident Procedures packet and or contact Commuter Van program staff at 206-625-4500.

GROUP RECORD UPDATE REMINDER – The King County Commuter Van Program is publicly operated and must regularly verify program participation and vehicle use information. In addition, accurate group record information helps us provide our groups with the most efficient and effective ridesharing commute support.

Therefore, we regularly ask our groups to review and update their group record via email. Please help us provide the best ridesharing service possible by responding to our group record update requests timely and with all the necessary information.

Thank you and Happy Vanpooling! King County Metro Commuter Van Services

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